

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 686

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## AN ACT

To provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize  
the funding of regional poison control centers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Poison Control Center  
5 Enhancement and Awareness Act Amendments of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Section 2 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
3 Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14801) is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 “Congress finds the following:

7 “(1) Poison control centers are our Nation’s  
8 primary defense against injury and deaths from poi-  
9 soning. Twenty-four hours a day, the general public  
10 as well as health care practitioners contact their  
11 local poison centers for help in diagnosing and treat-  
12 ing victims of poisoning and other toxic exposures.

13 “(2) Poisoning is the third most common form  
14 of unintentional death in the United States. In any  
15 given year, there will be between 2,000,000 and  
16 4,000,000 poison exposures. More than 50 percent  
17 of these exposures will involve children under the age  
18 of 6 who are exposed to toxic substances in their  
19 home. Poisoning accounts for 285,000 hospitaliza-  
20 tions, 1,200,000 days of acute hospital care, and  
21 13,000 fatalities annually.

22 “(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and in-  
23 creasing accessibility to poison control centers will  
24 promote the utilization of poison control centers, and  
25 reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical  
26 services and other more costly health care services.

1           “(4) The tragic events of September 11, 2001,  
2           and the anthrax cases of October 2001, have dra-  
3           matically changed our Nation. During this time pe-  
4           riod, poison centers in many areas of the country  
5           were answering thousands of additional calls from  
6           concerned residents. Many poison centers were relied  
7           upon as a source for accurate medical information  
8           about the disease and the complications resulting  
9           from prophylactic antibiotic therapy.

10           “(5) The 2001 Presidential Task Force on Cit-  
11           izen Preparedness in the War on Terrorism rec-  
12           ommended that the Poison Control Centers be used  
13           as a source of public information and public edu-  
14           cation regarding potential biological, chemical, and  
15           nuclear domestic terrorism.

16           “(6) The increased demand placed upon poison  
17           centers to provide emergency information in the  
18           event of a terrorist event involving a biological,  
19           chemical, or nuclear toxin will dramatically increase  
20           call volume.”.

21 **SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL TOLL FREE NUM-**  
22 **BER.**

23           Section 4 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
24           Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14803) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-  
 2 ing the following:

3 **“SEC. 4. MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUM-**  
 4 **BER.”;**

5 and

6 (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and  
 7 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
 8 2009” after “2004”.

9 **SEC. 4. NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN.**

10 Section 5 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
 11 Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14804) is amended—

12 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-  
 13 ing the following:

14 **“SEC. 5. NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE POI-**  
 15 **SON CONTROL CENTER UTILIZATION.”;**

16 and

17 (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and  
 18 \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
 19 2009” after “2004”.

20 **SEC. 5. POISON CONTROL CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 Section 6 of the Poison Control Enhancement and  
 22 Awareness Act (42 U.S.C. 14805) is amended—

23 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-  
 24 ing the following:

1 **“SEC. 6. MAINTENANCE OF THE POISON CONTROL CENTER**  
 2 **GRANT PROGRAM.”;**

3 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
 4 following:

5 “(b) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary shall  
 6 also use amounts received under this section to—

7 “(1) develop standardized poison prevention  
 8 and poison control promotion programs;

9 “(2) develop standard patient management  
 10 guidelines for commonly encountered toxic expo-  
 11 sures;

12 “(3) improve and expand the poison control  
 13 data collection systems;

14 “(4) improve national toxic exposure surveil-  
 15 lance;

16 “(5) expand the toxicologic expertise within poi-  
 17 son control centers; and

18 “(6) improve the capacity of poison control cen-  
 19 ters to answer high volumes of calls during times of  
 20 national crisis”;

21 (3) by striking subsection (d)(2) and inserting  
 22 the following:

23 “(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a  
 24 waiver under paragraph (1).

25 “(3) LIMITATION.—In no instance may the sum  
 26 of the number of years for a waiver under paragraph

1 (1) and a renewal under paragraph (2) exceed 5  
 2 years. The preceding sentence shall take effect as if  
 3 enacted on February 25, 2000.”; and

4 (4) in subsection (h), by inserting “and  
 5 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
 6 2009” after “2004”.

7 **SEC. 6. NATIONWIDE TOXICOSURVEILLANCE OF POISON**  
 8 **CENTER DATA TO PROMOTE HAZARD DETEC-**  
 9 **TION.**

10 The Poison Control Enhancement and Awareness Act  
 11 (42 U.S.C. 14801 et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
 12 end the following:

13 **“SEC. 7. NATIONWIDE TOXICOSURVEILLANCE OF POISON**  
 14 **CENTER DATA TO PROMOTE HAZARD DETEC-**  
 15 **TION.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assist in the  
 17 implementation and maintenance of continuous national  
 18 toxicosurveillance of poison control center data to detect  
 19 new hazards from household products, pharmaceuticals,  
 20 traditionally abused drugs, and other toxic substances.

21 “(b) COMPETITIVE GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR SERV-  
 22 ICES.—The Secretary may enter into a competitive grant  
 23 or contract with a university, academic center, or other  
 24 appropriate professional organization for the collection

1 and analysis of poison center data described in subsection  
2 (a) in real time.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
5 \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.”.

Passed the Senate June 20, 2003.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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